

REMARKS:

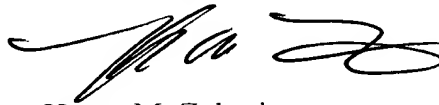
By this Supplemental Amendment, additional claims have been added. These additional claims essentially correspond to new claims 17-31 rewritten as method claims. Furthermore, slight modifications were effected to some of the claims submitted by the October 23, 2002 Amendment.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the Examiner is requested to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1337.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS
SHOWING CHANGES MADE**

--17. (Amended) A supply element for a laboratory microchip with a microfluid structure for at least one of chemical, physical, or biological processing, the microchip having a first supplier to supply substances to the microchip and a second supplier to supply a potential to the microchip to move substances corresponding to the microfluid structure, the supply element comprising:

at least one substance-containing third supplier adapted to contain a substance, said at least one third supplier having a seal arranged to be opened to the microchip in response to the supply element and the microchip being joined together to enable said substance to be transferred from said at least one third supplier to the first supplier of the microchip.

26. (Amended) The supply element of claim 17, further comprising a fourth supplier to transfer the potential to the microchip, said fourth supplier being arranged to be coupled to the corresponding second supplier on the microchip.

30. (Amended) The supply element of claim 17, further comprising first and second assemblies, said first assembly being adapted to contain a module carrying said supply element and supply equipment and said module being adapted to be releasably connected to said second assembly.

31. (Amended) [A] The supply element of claim 17, wherein said seal of said at least one third supplier is adapted to be pierced by an end of said first supplier to enable said substance to be transferred from said at least one third supplier to the first supplier of the microchip.